

UTAH PROJECT RECONNECT

Item	Information
Official Name	Utah Project RECONNECT (Responsibilities, Enhancement, Competency, Opportunities, Networking, Neighborhood, Empowerment, Collaboration and Transition)
Contact Information (street address) (phone number) (fax number) (e-mail address)	<p>Jane H. Lewis, Project Coordinator Utah Division of Substance Abuse & Mental Health 120 North 200 West, Suite 201 Salt Lake City, Utah 84103 Office: 801-538-3912 Fax: 801-538-4696 jhlewis@utah.gov</p> <p>Ming Wang, Principal Investigator Utah Division of Substance Abuse & Mental Health 120 North 200 West, Suite 201 Salt Lake City, Utah 84103 Office: (801) 538-4276 Fax: 801-538-4696 mwang@utah.gov</p>
URL address	www.hsmh.utah.gov
Area served	Counties of Utah, Salt Lake, Summit, Tooele, Davis, Weber, and Morgan are the target service areas. Services will be provided by four community mental health centers (CMHCs): Wasatch Mental Health, Valley Mental Health, Davis Behavioral Health, and Weber Human Services.
Targeted populations	<p>Project RECONNECT serves youth ages 14 to 21 and may provide services up to age 25. These youth must meet the federal criteria for Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) or emerging mental illness and are currently not receiving services individualized to completely meet their transitional needs. The target population can be divided into three subgroups:</p> <p><i>Traditional CMHC Clients:</i> Medicaid eligible Youth in Custody</p> <p><i>Non-Traditional CMHC Clients:</i> GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, and Questioning) Homeless Children with Physical Disabilities</p> <p><i>Underserved</i> (currently receiving services at CMHCs, but at an</p>

	<p>inadequate level):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-Medicaid (uninsured and underinsured) Ethnic/Racial Minorities Refugees Deaf/Hearing Impaired Youth as parents
Goals & Objectives	<p><i>Mission</i> Youth and Young Adults who are assessed with Serious Emotional Disturbances (SED) or emerging mental illness face additional challenges in transitioning to adulthood. With respect and dignity, these youth, young adults, their families and communities will collaboratively develop, coordinate and mobilize resources to support and strengthen them in their quest for independence.</p> <p><i>Philosophy</i> Our intention is to honor the full potential and interests of the target population as they transition into a state of independence. This will be accomplished through services that are youth and family directed, individualized, strength-based and culturally competent, while reducing risk factors and fostering resiliency.</p> <p><i>Goal</i> The overall goal of Project RECONNECT is to mobilize and coordinate community resources to assist youths age 14 to 21 with emotional disturbances or emerging mental illnesses to successfully transition to adulthood and achieve full potential in life</p> <p><i>Objective</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To enhance community's capacity in delivering coordinated youth transitional services, 2. To assist youths age 14 to 21 with emotional disturbances or emerging mental illnesses to gain competency of functioning in adulthood in areas of employment, education, living situation, and community life adjustment, 3. To demonstrate the effectiveness of the strategic planning process and the implementation of the transitional service model through process and outcome evaluation, and 4. To ensure the continued functioning of the youth transitional services after the end of the federal grant funds.
Planned Activities & Timeframes	<p><i>Steering Committee</i> The Steering Committee consists of members from diverse backgrounds and community affiliation. It is responsible for developing the project logic model, identifying key outcome</p>

measures, monitoring project operation, and developing sustainability plan.

Youth Action Council

There are four local Youth Councils (one at each community mental health center) and a project-wide Youth Action Council. These councils reviews policies, procedures, and service design for their appropriateness for the target population. It also assists the program to assess the feasibility of using youth as data collectors. Two youth representatives attend the State Steering Committee.

Family Council

The Family Council reviews policies, procedures, and service design for family involvement. It also assesses the feasibility of using family members as data collectors. Two family representatives attend the State Steering Committee.

Cultural Competency Advisory Council

Cultural Competency Advisory Council examines policies, procedures, clinical practices, and the evaluation component to ensure that they are appropriate for diverse cultural values and linguistic differences. It is developing a “Cultural Competency Practice Model” that addresses cultural and linguistic issues and will be integrated into transitional services. Future projects include cultural competency training curriculum, and cultural consultant resource bank.

Youth Leadership Conference

The Youth Action Council organizes annual Youth Leadership Conference to bring program participants together for leadership development and advocacy skills training.

Resource Manual

A Resource Manual is being developed to assist the Transitional Facilitators to connect youth/young adults and families to services of the four transitional domains; employment and career, living situation, educational opportunities and community life functioning. The Manual will have helpful tips on ways to penetrate system barriers.

Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment

The Project uses the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment as a case management tool. All children and adult case management supervisors and Transitional Facilitators will be trained on it.

	<p><i>Sustainability.</i> The four community mental health centers have all committed to sustain the project at the exact staffing level after the federal funds run out.</p>
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